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NEWSLETTER

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FORESTS SEEN SERVING
LONG-TERM NEEDS OF NATION

The long-term housing and recreation needs of this Nation will require more intensive multiple-use management of all commercial forest lands, Federal, State and industrial, as well as the 60 percent of commercial forest lands held in non-industrial private ownership, according to Agriculture Secretary Clifford M. Hardin.

Addressing the Society of American Foresters recently, the Secretary commended such efforts as that of the Southern Resource Analysis Committee to develop further the potential of privately-held non-industrial forests--the South's Third Forest.

The aim of the Third Forest project is to rebuild a massive forest potential that includes 145 million acres of third generation forest lands held by more than a million owners of generally small holdings.

The council is considering various programs to provide these owners of small holdings with assistance and incentives.

The projected increase of population in the United States to 300 million persons by the year 2000 implies, Secretary Hardin said, a need for at least 50 percent more food--at least 50 percent more housing--twice as much water--and three times as much demand for outdoor recreation.

By the same year 2000, the Southern Pine Association estimates, the South is expected to supply more than half the nation's timber products.

Timber sales from National Forests in the South have tripled in the last 20 years.

For the first time last fiscal year they totaled more than one billion board feet.

Most National Forests in the South have been created from cut-over lands which were acquired for National Forest purposes since the early 1930's.

All timber sales in the nine regions of National Forests of the United States during the fiscal year totaled 18,959,003,000 board feet.

WATERSHED PROJECTS CREATE JOBS

As of last July, construction and industrial expansion generated by small watershed projects have created an estimated 50,700 jobs and added about \$152 million to local payrolls, reports the Soil Conservation Service.

New reservoirs have expanded municipal and industrial water supply for 260,000 people in 46 communities.

While recreation was written into plans for only one percent of the 5,000 lakes built since the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 83-566) was passed 15 years ago, 99 percent are being used today for one or more kinds of freshwater fun.

Further, recreational development of more than 250 additional reservoirs already planned will eventually support 12.5 million visitor days in 40 states each year.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY LOANS IMPROVE INCOME

The Farmers Home Administration recently reported that rural families who received economic opportunity loans to develop small, nonagricultural business enterprises made slightly greater living gains than those who used the credit to improve their small farming operations.

Economic opportunity loans are made to low-income farmers and other rural residents in open country and small rural communities with populations of not more than 5,500. Farmers may obtain loans to improve farming or develop and expand a small business or service. Other rural people may obtain loans to finance or expand a small business and services.

The FHA reported that nonagricultural borrowers showed an average net income of \$3,840 (up \$1,350) after three years on the program, compared to an average \$2,950 net income (up \$1,100) of agriculture borrowers after three years.

LEAFLET DESCRIBES SECOND HOMES

The typical second home is a single-story structure with four rooms and is valued at \$7,800. Three out of five second homes are located within 100 miles of the owners' primary residence--80 percent are within 200 miles.

These are among the second-home national statistics brought to light in "Second Homes in the United States, Current Housing Reports, Series H-121, No. 16," issued this summer and available from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, for 50 cents.

IT PAYS TO BE CLEAN

The beautification committee of the Fort Worth, Texas, Chamber of Commerce proved that it pays to be clean. Motorists who obeyed a sign which read "Show me your litter bag" were handed \$5 bills in the grand finale of a cleanup campaign.

NONMETROPOLITAN DISTRICT PLANNING ASSISTANCE
REQUIRES CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The role of citizen participation in nonmetropolitan district planning is outlined briefly, along with other aspects of such planning, in a new leaflet made available by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"To ensure that plans, programs, policies, and proposals developed by the District Agency are responsive to the objectives and values of every citizen affected by them," the leaflet states, "the agency must devise means of involving citizens in the planning process.

"The views of low-income and minority groups must be explicitly solicited, and other groups representing particular interests and geographic areas should also be recognized.

"No application for planning assistance will be approved unless the program design contains a description of citizen participation arrangements, and failure to implement such arrangements will constitute ground for denial of future applications."

Single copies of the publication, "Nonmetropolitan District Planning Assistance," which describes the scope of the program eligibility requirements, grants limits and application procedures, may be obtained free by writing:

Community Relations Division
Office of Public Affairs
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Washington, D. C. 20410

COMMUNICATIONS GAP
COSTS STATE BUSINESS?

The Economic Development Division of the Arkansas Planning Commission discovered that Arkansas manufacturers are spending more than \$80 million annually with out-of-state firms for metal working products and services that it believes could be produced in Arkansas.

So the division, through the provisions of a technical grant from the Ozark Regional Commission, contracted with the Industrial Research and Extension Center, University of Arkansas, to design a Metalworking Services Information System.

The system, intended to bridge the communication gap between manufacturers and contractors, was expected to be operational by this month.

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SMALL TOWN, U.S.A.--SOME FACTS

Are small towns becoming ghost towns?

No. In fact, many of them are growing faster than the Nation as a whole, in terms of population.

Nearly three-fourth of the nonmetropolitan communities with 2,500 to 25,000 people in 1950 had racked up population gains by 1960. Their overall rate of population growth (including the minority that lost residents) was 21 percent, which was higher than the Nation's rate.

Towns with even as few as 2,500 to 5,000 people grew by 18 percent on the average, equal to the national rate.

Only in towns with less than 500 residents were population losses more common than population gains. Roughly three-fifths of those places saw their numbers dwindle during 1950-60.

Even so, they registered a small aggregate growth, because the gainers gained more people than the losers lost.

----reprinted from The Farm Index, September, 1969

SPOTLIGHT ON ADJUSTMENT

Why do some rural families make a better adjustment to city living than others? The U. S. Department of Agriculture has approved a research grant to Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, where researchers will seek to answer this question. The three-year research project is sponsored by USDA's Agricultural Research Services.